

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-39, and 41-61 are pending in this application.

All pending claims are rejected.

Applicant thanks the examiner for granting an in-person interview with Applicant's representatives Won Joon Kouh (Reg. No. 42,763) and Peter Cronk (Reg. No. 32,021) on July 24, 2006 to discuss Applicant's proposed amendments to the claims. During the interview, Applicant's representatives discussed the features of the invention recited in the proposed amendments to the claims that distinguish the invention from the prior art of record as summarized in the examiner's Interview Summary.

Pursuant to the interview of July 24, 2006, Applicant hereby submits preliminary amendments to the pending claims as shown in the Listing of Claims, in conjunction with the accompanying RCE. Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 8, 22, 24, and 25 are amended. Claims 10, 11, 17, 21, 32-39, and 41-61 are canceled without prejudice.

After the entry of the amendments submitted herein, claims 1-8, 12-16, 18-20, and 22-31 remain pending.

For the reasons presented below, Applicant believes that the amended claims are allowable over the prior art of record and place the present application in condition for allowance.

Amendment to the Specification

The paragraph [0002] of the Specification is amended to identify an additional related copending application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8, 10-14, 16-23, 26-39, 41-45, 47-53 and 56-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States published Application No. 2003/0008586 to Kajander *et al.* ("Kajander") in view of United States published Application No. 2004/0038017 to Tutin *et al.* ("Tutin").

Claims 10, 11, 17, 21, 32-39, and 41-45, 47-53 and 56-61 are canceled and, thus, their rejections are moot.

As summarized in the examiner's Interview Summary, Applicant believes that the amended claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record and the cited references. The remainder of the rejected claims 2-8, 12-14, 16, 18-20, 22, 23, and 26-31 depend from claim 1 which is allowable over the prior art of record including the cited references. Because dependent claims incorporate all limitations of their parent claim, these dependent claims are also allowable over the prior art of record including the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8, 12-14, 16, 18-20, 22, 23, and 26-31 and their allowance are requested.

Claims 15, 24-25, 46, and 54-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kajander in view of U.S. published patent application No. 2004/0266304 to Jaffee ("Jaffee").

Claims 46 and 54-55 are canceled and, thus, their rejections are moot.

The claims 15, 24, and 25 depend from amended claim 1 which is allowable over the prior art of record. And Applicant believes that the dependent claims 15, 24, and 25 are also allowable over the cited references because the disclosure of Jaffee does not cure the deficiencies of Kajander with respect to the parent amended claim 1. For example, Jaffee nor Kajander discloses or suggests

a facing bonded to at least one of the two sides of the duct liner, said facing containing non-woven randomly oriented inorganic, natural, or synthetic fibers treated with a water resistant additive, wherein said facing layer is bonded to said fiber component of said duct liner by at least a portion of said non-liquid substantially formaldehyde-free binder

as required in amended claim 1.

Furthermore, Jaffee does not teach "non-woven mat comprising a binder of glass or mineral fibers" as the examiner contends. A careful study of the portion of Jaffee cited by the examiner for this proposition (pg. 4, col. 1, paragraph [0032]) shows that the text is describing the staple fibers used as the minor portion of the glass fibers. The staple fibers and the major portion of the glass fibers are "bound together with any known water resistant resinous binder." (See Jaffee at paragraph [0033]). Thus, Jaffee teaches using resinous binder to bind the glass fibers (both major and minor portions) but does not teach the use of any binder fibers, let alone plastic coated mineral fibers as required by claim 15.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15, 24, and 25 and their allowance are requested.

Terminal Disclaimers

Applicant submits terminal disclaimers with respect to the following three (3), commonly assigned, copending applications: Serial No. 10/806,544, filed on 03/23/2004; Serial No. 10/823,065, filed on 04/12/2004; and Serial No. 10/782,275, filed on 02/19/2004. Applicant hereby authorized the Commissioner of Patents to charge the terminal disclaimer fee of \$130 for each of the three accompanying terminal disclaimers for a total of **\$390** to Duane Morris LLP Deposit Account No. 04-1679.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the pending claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are kindly requested. Should the examiner disagree with the Applicants' position, a telephone interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of the application.

As shown in the attached Patent Application Fee Determination Record sheet, no additional claim fee is believed due for the filing of this amendment and response.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 14, 2006

s/ Won Joon Kouh

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